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CENTRAL FAX CENTER
APR 21 2008**

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for supporting one or more articles of various sizes and shapes on a vehicle surface during transport with a mechanized vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

one or more straps;

a planar platform having a body and periphery and cooperating with said one or more straps for holding the one or more articles against the platform, the platform further comprising:

a planar top surface for engaging the one or more articles being held by the one or more straps;

a planar bottom surface parallel to the top surface for engaging the vehicle surface;

one or more handles, protruding from and in substantially close proximity to said periphery, for grasping the platform;

a plurality of bearing members arranged in succession to enable adjustment of the one or more straps;

a plurality of slots separating said bearing members; and

at least one recess, aligned with said plurality of slots and said bearing members, recessing from the bottom surface into the body of the platform, for accepting said one or more straps through at least two of said slots for engaging the straps against the bearing members and for preventing the straps from engaging the vehicle surface.

2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform top surface is further comprised of a slip resistant material.
9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform bottom surface is further comprised of a slip resistant material.
10. (canceled)